



Ninety-Ninth Legislature - First Session - 2005
Introducer's Statement of Intent
LB 709

Chairperson: Jim Jensen
Committee: Health and Human Services
Date of Hearing: February 9, 2005

The following constitutes the reasons for this bill and the purposes which are sought to be accomplished thereby:

LB 709 adopts the Medicaid Reform Act, “to provide for reform of the medical assistance program established in section 68-1018, also known as medicaid, and a substantive recodification of statutes relating to such program.”

The bill provides legislative intent to enact policies to among other things, (1) reduce the growth of medicaid spending, (2) ensure future sustainability of the medical assistance program for Nebraska residents, (3) reduce the number of persons who are dependent on medical assistance benefits, (4) establish priorities and ensure flexibility in the allocation of medical assistance benefits, and (5) provide alternatives to medicaid eligibility for Nebraska residents.

LB 709 requires the Governor and the chair of the Health and Human Services Committee to designate one person to conduct negotiations with the federal Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services for the development of a medicaid reform plan for the State of Nebraska.

The bill further requires the chair of the Health and Human Services Committee to prepare and introduce legislation in the Ninety-ninth Legislature, Second Session, to implement such plan of reform.

Principal Introducer: _____
Senator Philip Erdman